



Thank you for investing your time to learn about & support The Shawnigan Basin Society. The purpose of the Society is to protect and secure the long-term health and safety of the Shawnigan Lake Community Watershed specifically and the South Cowichan region generally, particularly the drinking water these watersheds provide.

According to the 5-year budget posted by CVRD, it appears that our main source of core funding (CVRD Function 488) will not be received by the Society again this year; hence, we are reaching out to our community and corporate supporters to sponsor or donate as soon as possible. Over the past 4 years our operations have been funded solely through memberships, community donations & the work of our volunteers. Our bare minimum costs are approximately \$35,000 annually. Our current goal is to raise 3 years of core funding (\$105,000) so we can focus on working for the community watersheds & all they nurture.

The Society achieved charitable organization status with the Canada Revenue Agency in 2021 and can now issue tax receipts accordingly. Our gratitude to The Cowichan Community Land Trust for supporting us with receipting charitable donations up to that point & for their continued partnership. We have also registered with Canada Helps to accept donations online (subject to an administration fee of approximately 4%). Fee free donation options include direct contributions via etransfer or cheques sent our Volunteer Centre.

The SBS regularly applies for project specific grants through various agencies but will be relying primarily on donations from community and corporate sponsors for core funding to enable us to maintain the base operations and continue to apply for project funding. Over \$75,000 worth of time and services are delivered by SBS volunteer Directors to the society annually.

Here is a snapshot of what we have been working on

- Hosted community presentations by various organizations including: The Cowichan Watershed Board, Sooke Hills Wilderness Committee, Cowichan Station (Koksilah) Community Association, VIHA: Wellsmart education, Gaia: water oxygenation, Septic field safety, Native plant education, Milfoil awareness, Biochar making demonstrations and walking tours of local forests including the SIA mine/contaminated site.
- Partnerships with Watersheds Canada Foreshore Restoration Projects & Invasive Species Council of BC

- Assisted residents with soil and well water contamination concerns by contacting responsible Provincial & Local Agencies, testing water, soil and sediment & advocating for monitoring & bylaw improvements.
- Creating a cold-water removal program for Eurasian Milfoil infestations
- As dumping of fill remains a constant concern in the South, we continue to monitor turbidity and other parameters in the Ephemeral Stream at several locations and Shawnigan Creek upstream and downstream of Lot 23 as well as near the Creek's entry into Shawnigan Lake.
- Collected samples and analysed water quality in Shawnigan Creek and the Lake in an effort to record and analyze long term changes in the aquifers, streams and Lake.
- Our partnership with BC Lake Stewardship Society will provide our volunteers with fantastic resources & and opportunity for aquatic plant identification training in 2022.
- Submitted commentaries to various levels of government regarding, professional reliance, mining & forestry practices, soil deposits, riparian area protection and climate change initiatives.
- Maintained a website, newsletter and social media page to engage community in current events and watershed related activities. We have also made several contributions to our local community newspapers.
- Engaged in public land usage advocacy inquiries including, disruptive use of parkland and nature reserve land, wake damage to foreshore and property owner structures, lake access, riparian designation and zoning clarification.
- Participated in CVRD committees: (Ctag) community technical advisory group participation for the new Watershed Protection Fund including input on water quality objectives, attainment testing, and Watershed Management Plan creation, South Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (SSLWMP), attending weekly CVRD Board meetings to stay informed on local governance, volunteer invasive removal in local parks programs.
- for spring restorations. See <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/> for full details.
- Memoranda of Understanding have been agreed to with Mosaic Forest Management and Malahat First Nation to work together on improving existing practices related to watershed health. We continue to look forward and work in collaboration toward community stewardship of this beautiful area and the water we all depend upon.
- We have also begun integrating supports for the communities of Cobble Hill & Mill Bay and building a collective within our three main South Cowichan communities as we are aware that what happens in Shawnigan also affects our downstream neighbours.

Data bases for each of the above issues are being created and maintained in our Office so we can offer information to the community. Please send us files and photos of work you have been doing in these areas so we can share your work and increase our communities' effectiveness through collaboration.

To send contributions to our community watershed database (research or correspondence regarding watershed concerns, water, and soil test reports etc.) please email admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org

For sponsorship and donations please contact me directly or follow this link
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/shawnigan-basin-society/>

In Community, Shirley Astleford

Treasurer & Fundraising Coordinator

Cell. 250-216-2896

E-mail: director@shawniganbasinsociety.org